

PORTER COWLES PICKELL '33 was one of the most influential persons in publishing in this state during her career of more than 40 years with the University of North Carolina Press in Chapel Hill.

A native of Lexington, she attended Agnes Scott College and transferred to the University at Chapel Hill where she majored in history and psychology. Following her graduation with an AB degree in 1933, she went to work for the University Press at 25 cents an hour. Through the next four decades she had a hand in the publishing of more than 1,000 titles, rising to the post of Acting Director and retiring in 1974 as Associate Director. Highly respected in the field of scholarly publishing, she was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of University Presses.

Since her retirement in 1974, she has continued her effective work in behalf of alma mater as one of its most valuable volunteers. Whatever the cause, if it is "for Carolina," Porter Cowles is ready to do it. This is especially true in connection with affairs of the General Alumni Association and the Educational Foundation.

Through the years she has served Alumni Annual Giving as a class agent, area agent, and as a Council member, working with particular effectiveness in giving programs for women. She was instrumental in the publication of the 1975 Alumni Directory—a major work for the General Alumni Association which contained over 137,000 names. In addition she has been helpful to the Alumni Association as a member of its Tour Committee. Her interest in Carolina athletics has drawn her to become a regular office volunteer helper for the Educational Foundation.

Ever a practical person of good humor and natural habits of hard work, she built a career at a time when jobs for women were little more than the period between a father's and a husband's care. She has fairly delighted at not fitting into the expected norm, cherishing avocations ranging from that of bank director, Red Cross volunteer, globe-trotting traveler, and political campaign worker, to gourmet cook and a fancier of home-grown orchids.

It is in appreciation of Porter Pickell's long-standing and continuing contributions to the life and service of this University that the General Alumni Association presents to her the Distinguished Service Medal for 1978.